

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06546 041630Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
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/105 W

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P 041620Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5835
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 06546

USEEC

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SUBJ: EUROPEAN "WORKER ACTION DAY" FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT
APRIL 5

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 2615; (B) 77 BRUSSELS 17487 (BOTH
NOTAL)

1. MATHIAS HINTERSCHIED, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC), HELD A PRESS
CONFERENCE APRIL 4 TO DESCRIBE THE ACTIVITIES THAT VARIOUS
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ETUC AFFILIATES HAVE PLANNED FOR A WESTERN
EUROPE-WIDE "WORKER ACTION DAY FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT" ON
APRIL 5. HINTERSCHIED SAID THAT GOVERNMENTS HAVE SO FAR
FAILED TO AGREE ON "EVEN A MINIMUM PROGRAM" FOR STIMULATING
FULL EMPLOYMENT, AND THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE DAY IS TO
PROD GOVERNMENTS OUT OF THEIR PRESENT "INACTION."

2. IN A PRESS RELEASE TITLED "APPEAL TO THE WORKERS OF EUROPE," THE ETUC URGED "ALL WORKING PEOPLE IN EUROPE TO TAKE PART ON A LARGE SCALE IN THE INITIATIVES WHICH THEIR NATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATIONS HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE TO ENSURE THE FULL SUCCESS OF THIS ACTION, WHICH WILL BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN EUROPE." WHEN A REPORTER ASKED HOW MANY WORKERS WOULD RESPOND TO THIS APPEAL, HINTERSCH-EID DECLINED TO MAKE AN ESTIMATE. "WE'LL KNOW TOMORROW NIGHT," HE SAID.

3. FROM HINTERSCH-EID'S PRESENTATION, IT APPEARED THAT FEW STRIKES ARE BEING CALLED, AND THESE WOULD BE ONLY FOR AN HOUR OR SO. THE LONGEST WORK STOPPAGE PLANNED, ACCORDING TO HINTERSCH-EID'S RUNDOWN, WAS A THREE-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE IN GREECE (ATHENS 2435, NOTAL). SPAIN, SAID HINTERSCH-EID, WOULD HAVE A ONE-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE THAT WOULD INCLUDE PARTICIPATION OF ORGANIZATIONS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE ETUC--MEANING THE WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (MADRID 2795, NOTAL). ONLY OTHER STRIKES MENTIONED BY HINTERSCH-EID WERE STOPPAGES ON PLANT LEVELS PLANNED IN ITALY AND ON PROVINCIAL LEVELS IN FRANCE.

4. IN BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, GERMANY, LUXEMBOURG, AND THE NORDIC COUNTRIES, THE EMPHASIS WILL BE ON MASS MEETINGS, PLUS RADIO AND TV BROADCASTS, HINTERSCH-EID SAID, ADDING THAT HE DID NOT HAVE COMPLETE REPORTS ON UNCLASSIFIED

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WHAT ALL AFFILIATES HAVE PLANNED FOR APRIL 5.

5. WHILE SOME WORKERS ARE STRIKING AND OTHERS ARE ATTENDING MASS MEETINGS, TOP ETUC LEADERS WILL BE MAKING DEMARCHES TO VARIOUS INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS-- THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, AND THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION--AND ALSO TO THE LIAISON COMMITTEE OF EMPLOYERS (CLE), WHICH GROUPS TOGETHER THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS OF INDUSTRIAL, BANKING, AND SMALL-BUSINESS EMPLOYERS.

6. IN ADDITION, ON APRIL 6, ON THE EVE OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL (HEADS OF GOVERNMENT) MEETING IN COPENHAGEN, ETUC PRESIDENT HEINZ OSKAR VETTER IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH DANISH PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. MORRIS

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